

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GRUECKERT:RWBECKER:DPL

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONSUMER ACADEMY IN WEST BERLIN

REFERENCES: A) BONN 16824, B) BONN 17299

1. SUMMARY. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED FRG PROPOSAL TO LOCATE CONSUMER ACADEMY IN WEST BERLIN (REFTELS) AND IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPORT FRG PLANS. END SUMMARY.

2. BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED REFTELS, WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT FRG PLANS TO LOCATE PROPOSED CONSUMER ACADEMY IN BERLIN. WE NOTE THAT ACADEMY WOULD BE LEGALLY REGISTERED PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD BE ATTACHED TO CONSUMER AGENCY ALREADY IN OPERATION IN CITY, THAT NO
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NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION COULD BE NEEDED TO SET IT UP AND

THAT IT WOULD NOT EXERCISE ANY KIND OF STATE AUTHORITY IN OR OVER BERLIN. IN OUR VIEW, ACADEMY THUS WOULD IN NO WAY CONTRAVENE TERMS OF QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT OR ALLIED AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO CHANCELLOR OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971 WHICH WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABBASIMOV PRIOR TO SIGNING OF AGREEMENT.

3. WE FIND LOCATION OF CONSUMER ACADEMY IN BERLIN WHERE IT CAN DRAW UPON EXPERTISE OF ALREADY EXISTING TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS TO BE LOGICAL. MOREOVER, THIS IS CLEARLY AREA IN WHICH TIES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN

AND FRG ALREADY ARE CLOSELY ESTABLISHED AND CONSUMER ACADEMY THUS WOULD NOT ADD ANY SUBSTANTIAL NEW ELEMENT TO BERLIN PICTURE. APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT IN OUR VIEW IS THUS BOTH LEGALLY AND POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY FOR ALLIES TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENT FOR MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING TIES BETWEEN FRG AND BERLIN.

4. WHILE WE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR SOME SOVIET AND GDR REACTION TO SETTING UP OF ACADEMY IN BERLIN, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS WOULD BE MINIMIZED BY RESTRAINED AND CIRCUMSPECT FRG AND BERLIN OFFICIAL HANDLING OF PUBLIC ASPECTS OF SETTING UP ACADEMY. IN PARTICULAR, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS IN BONN GROUP IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING GIVING THIS ACTION ASPECT OF DEMONSTRATIVE POLITICAL ACT. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THAT FRG WOULD KEEP ALLIES CLOSELY ADVISED OF PLANNING FOR THIS OFFICE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, CONSUMER PROTECTION, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE249435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GRUECKERT:RWBECKER:DPL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0938
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741149/aaaabpsl.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BONN 16824, B) BONN 17299
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED CONSUMER ACADEMY IN WEST BERLIN
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, WB, US, UK, FR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005